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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, July 14, 2011

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<http://www.justice.gov/usao/dc/news/2011/apr/news.html>

District Man Sentenced to More Than Five Years in Prison For Role As Heroin Supplier to Drug Trafficking Network - Drug Ring Operated in Potomac Gardens Housing Complex -

WASHINGTON - Heyward Sanders, 56, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today to a prison term of 63 months on federal charges stemming from his activities as a supplier of heroin to a drug trafficking network, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr., James W. McJunkin, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office, and Cathy L. Lanier, Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

Sanders was convicted by a jury in May 2011 of a charge of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute heroin. The verdict followed a trial in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The Honorable Senior Judge Thomas F. Hogan sentenced him today. Upon completion of his prison term, Sanders is to be placed on five years of supervised release. In addition, Senior Judge Hogan ordered Sanders to forfeit \$72,150 as proceeds related to or derived from the drug trafficking activities.

During the trial, the government's evidence established that, between November 2008 and June 2010, Sanders supplied heroin to a drug trafficking network that operated in and around the Potomac Gardens public housing complex in Southeast Washington. Several co-defendants earlier pled guilty to charges in the case.

The investigation was led by the FBI/MPD Safe Streets Task Force. The Safe Streets Initiative involves more than 150 Safe Streets Task Forces around the country that combat street gangs by combining federal, state and local police resources.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen, Assistant Director McJunkin and Chief Lanier commended the work of the FBI and MPD members of the task force. They also acknowledged the efforts of those who worked on the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Paralegal Specialists Carolyn Carter-McKinley and Sam Reisen, Information Technology Specialist Kimberly Smith, and Legal Assistant Eric Urschel.

Finally, they praised the work of Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kenneth F. Whitted, Steven B. Wasserman, and David B. Kent, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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